

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11-14, 16-20, 22, 26, and 28-30 were pending prior to entering this amendment. Claims 1, 2, 11, 16, 17, 26, and 28 were allowed. Claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 12-14, 18-20, 22, 29, and 30 were rejected. Claims 1, 4, 7, 11-14, 22, and 28-30 have been amended. Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

August 13, 2008 Telephone Interview

A telephone interview was conducted on August 13, 2008 between Michael Cofield, Attorney for Applicant, and Examiner John M. Villecco to discuss claim amendments that would make the rejections of record moot. During the telephone interview an agreement was reached that the claims, as amended, are allowable over the cited art of record.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

The examiner rejected claims 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claim 12 has been amended according to the Examiner's suggestion. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 12-14 is now moot and should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The examiner rejected claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 12-14, 18-20, 22, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kingetsu, *et al.*, (U.S. Patent 6,181,379) in view of Misawa, *et al.* (U.S. Patent 5,041,852).

A telephone meeting was held to discuss claim amendments that, in the interest of expediting prosecution, would make the rejections of record moot. As explained above, an agreement was reached during the telephone interview that claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 12-14, 18-20, 22, and 29, as amended, are allowable over Kingetsu and Misawa. There are no remaining rejections for these claims, and accordingly, these claims should be allowed.

The examiner rejected claim 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kingetsu in view of Misawa, and further in view of Hayakawa (U.S. Patent 6,130,993).

A telephone meeting was held to discuss claim amendments that, in the interest of expediting prosecution, would make the rejections of record moot. As explained above, an

agreement was reached during the telephone interview that claim 30, as amended, is allowable over Kingetsu, Misawa, and Hayakawa. There are no remaining rejections for this claim, and accordingly, this claim should be allowed.

Allowed claims

Claims 1, 2, 11, 16, 17, 26, and 28 are allowed. Although the applicant's attorney agrees with the Examiner's conclusion that these claims are allowable, the applicant's attorney notes that the claims may be allowable for reasons other than those identified by the Examiner and does not concede that the Examiner's characterizations of the terms of the claims and the prior art are correct.

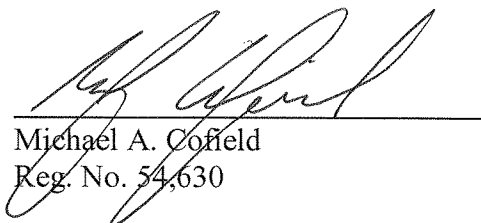
CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the present application. The applicants encourage the examiner to telephone the undersigned if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

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Respectfully submitted,

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